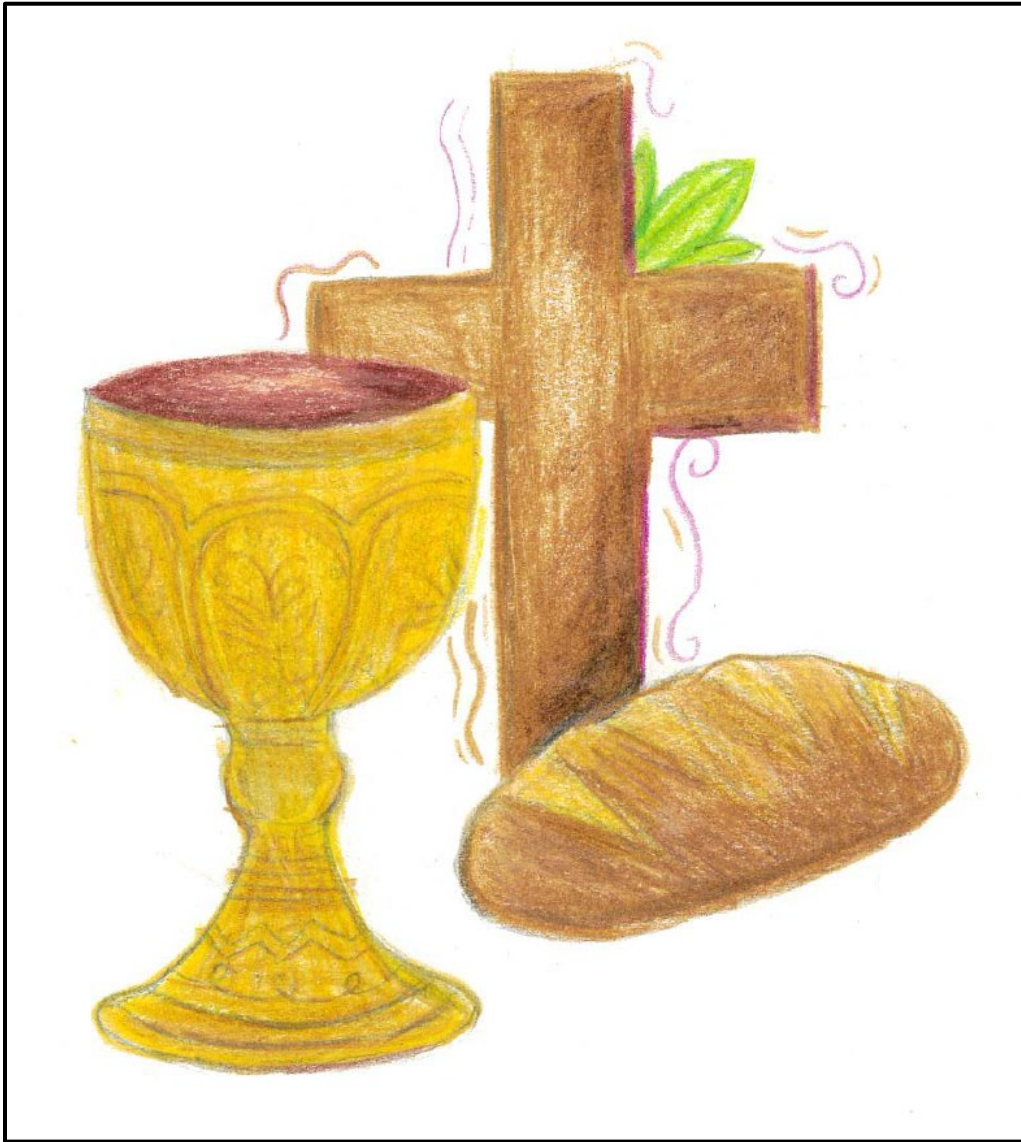




by Nora Allison-Pleasants, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

October 4, 2026

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost    *World Communion Sunday*

October 4, 2026

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**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

*(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Mindy Douglas

**PRELUDE**

Angelus

*comp. Léon Boëllman*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We gather from the west to the east,  
from the south to the north,  
to celebrate the God of peace  
who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

**People: This God of peace accompanies us  
in each and every circumstance around us.**

**All: We praise God's name! Amen!**

**\*HYMN NO. 409**

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious Lord, in Christ you made us family  
and intended for us to be united,  
and yet we have built walls to separate us  
from those who are different from us.**

**You gave us laws to order our lives  
and we have abused them  
to take revenge and punish our enemies.**

**We tolerate war rather than strive for peace.**

**We honor the rich and powerful at the expense of the weak.**

**In all this we have not lived according to your will.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements  
and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise.**

**In your mercy, forgive us our sins.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

**COLLECT**

Richard Anderson

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body.**

**Bind us to those who in all times and places have called on your name,  
so that, with one heart and mind, we may display the unity of the church,  
and bring glory to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**EPISTLE READING**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

(Pew Bible, NT Page 174)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Richard Anderson

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALTER**

Psalm 133:1-3

(Pew Bible, OT Page 575)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Richard Anderson

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL READING**

John 17:20-23

(Pew Bible, NT Page 111)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Nora Tubbs Tisdale

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON***"Faces at the Table"*

Nora Tubbs Tisdale

*(silent reflection)*

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**\*HYMN NO. 526**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Cris Rivera

Offertory Anthem

Look at the World

*comp. John Rutter*

*Look at the world, everything all around us: look at the world, and marvel every day.*

*Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way.*

***R: Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts that we may see:  
all the gifts we share, and every blessing, all things come of thee.***

*Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;  
look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, valley and flowing river, field and plain. R*

*Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season, 'til it is gathered to the father's fold. R*

*Every good gift, all that we need and cherish comes from the Lord in token of his love;  
we are his hands, stewards of all his bounty; his is the earth, and his the heav'ns above. R*

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all  
 peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -  
 more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Mindy Douglas

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,  
 loving God, creator and sustainer of life.

You planted the first fields

— wheat, barley, rice, and maize —

and made us in your image to care for your creation.

You fed your people in the wilderness with manna from heaven,

leading them to a land of milk and honey.

When human greed trampled the poor, you spoke through the prophets,

calling us to worship you with justice and peace.

Then, in the fullness of time,

you sent Jesus Christ, the living bread,

to lift up the oppressed and lowly and fill the hungry with good things.

Therefore we praise you,

joining the faithful who hunger and thirst for righteousness

and singing the hymn of the whole creation:

All (sung):

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the  
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: In the life of this Savior,  
we saw our own humanity mirrored  
in his words, his feelings, his actions, and his love.  
In mending broken hearts and healing ailing bodies,  
Jesus spoke truth and peace into this fallen world.  
He showed us that so much is possible,  
when we dare to believe in the power of our own action  
and the reality of God's power and will.  
Great is the mystery of faith:

All (sung):

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.  
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
and one with all who share this meal,

a great multitude from every nation.  
 Keep us faithful to Christ's teaching and fellowship,  
 to the breaking of bread and the prayers,  
 sharing our goods with one another,  
 and giving our possessions to those who are in need,  
 so that all people may have their daily bread,  
 this day and every day.  
 Just as the grain, once scattered across the hills,  
 was gathered together in this loaf of bread,  
 gather your people from the ends of the earth,  
 so that we may feast with you in glory in the joy of your new creation.  
 Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor are yours Almighty God,  
 now and forever. **Amen.**

**All (sung):**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

★ Ecumenical Version

*(spoken in unison in English, Spanish, or the language of your choice)*

**Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come, your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who  
 sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver  
 us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
 are yours now and forever.  
 Amen.**

**Padre Nuestro que estás en los cielos,  
 santificado sea tu nombre.  
 Venga tu reino.  
 Hágase tu voluntad, como en el Cielo,  
 así también en la tierra.  
 El pan Nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy.  
 Y perdónanos nuestras deudas  
 como también perdonamos a nuestros  
 deudores.  
 Y no nos dejes caer en tentación, mas  
 líbranos del mal; porque tuyo es el reino, el  
 poder, y la gloria, por todos los siglos.  
 Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas

## **\*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*(The bread and the elements are gluten free and were prepared in a gluten-free area. We use grape juice in the cup. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive communion. The server will give you a piece of bread, which you dip in the cup. Parents, please assist children as they take bread and lightly dip it into the cup. After eating, please return to your seat. Anyone who is unable to come forward may remain in the pew to be served by the clergy.)*

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

Let Us Break Bread Together

*arr. Moses Hogan*

Lesley Curtis, Soprano

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mindy Douglas

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**All:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
creator and ruler of the universe,  
for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of your grace.  
Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **\*HYMN NO. 317**

In Christ There Is No East or West

MCKEE

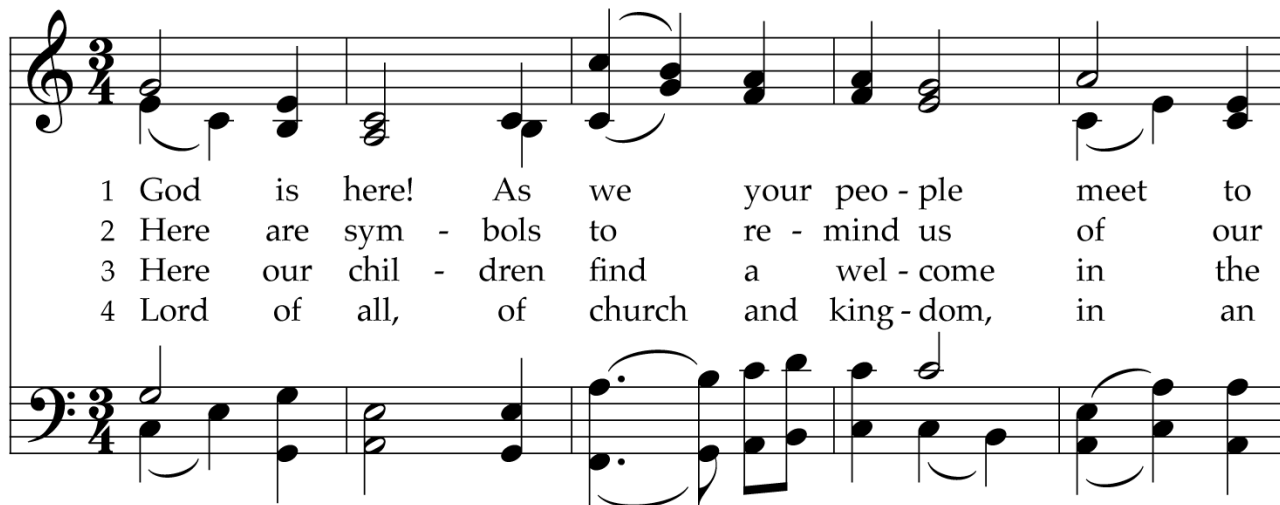
## **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Nora Tubbs Tisdale

## **\*POSTLUDE**

Finale

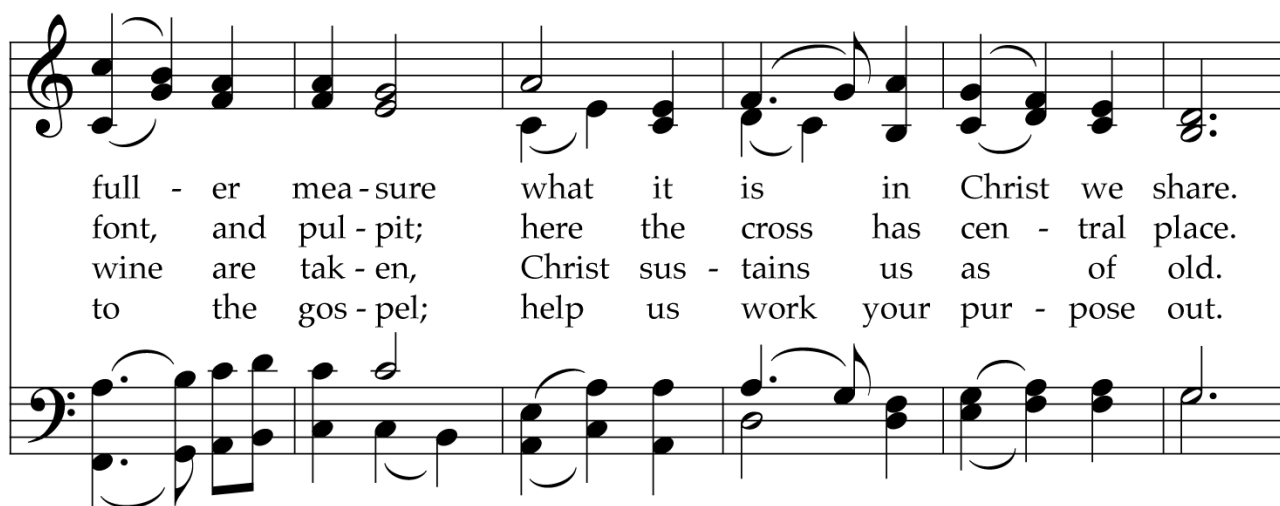
*comp. Johan Helmich Roman*



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an



of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in  
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,  
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and  
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful



full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.  
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.  
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our  
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in  
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in  
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing  
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness  
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in  
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

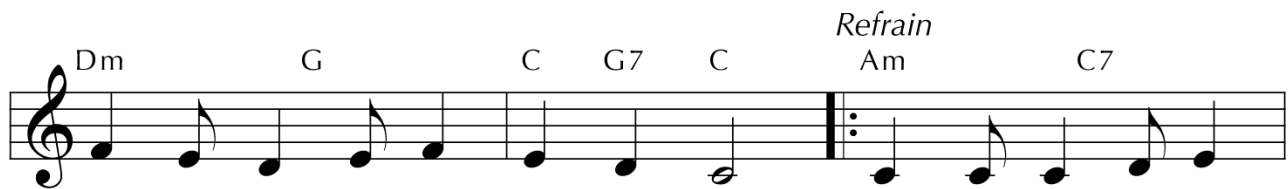
of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;  
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,  
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



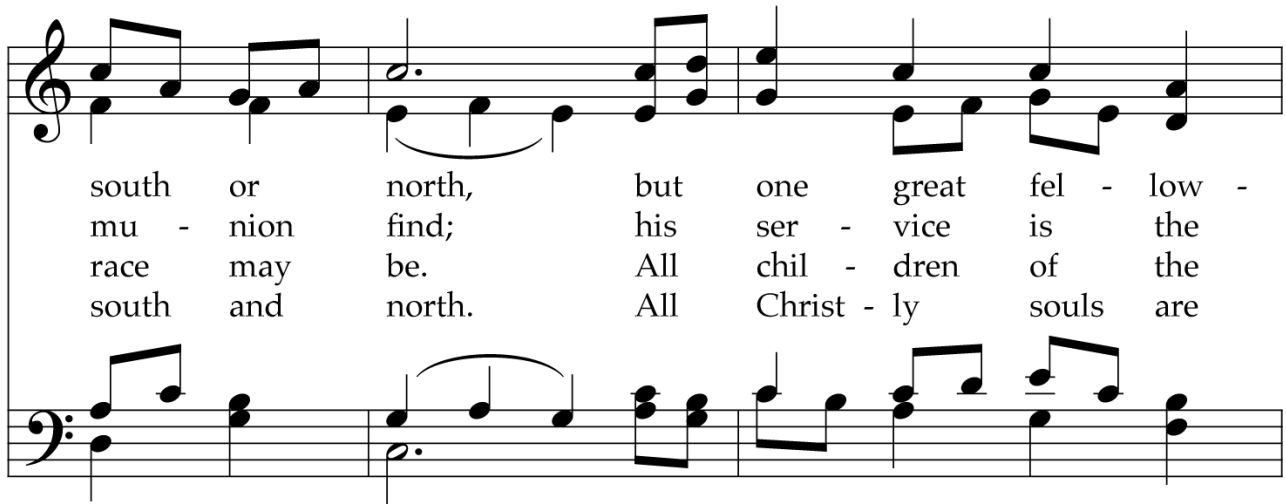
Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;  
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



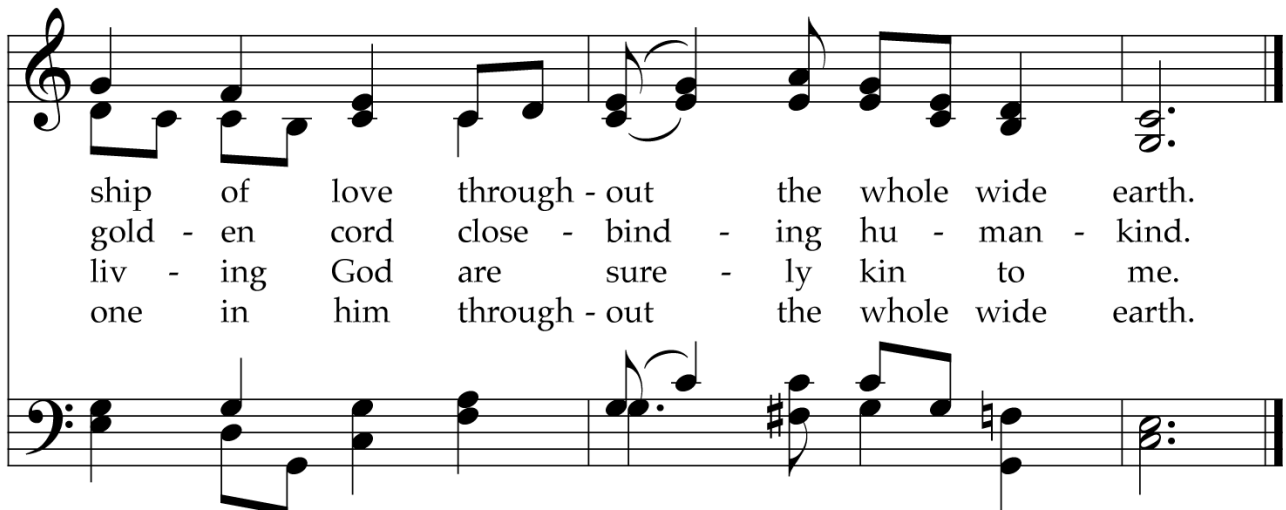
earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no  
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -  
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your  
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet



south or north, but one great fel - low -  
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the  
 race may be. All chil - dren of the  
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are



ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

## Worship Notes



Sign In

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right.



Donate Online

We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Jesus Christ. First Presbyterian welcomes individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Friendship Pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of her parents, ***Jane and Dennis J. Buckley***, by ***Barbara Buckley***.

***Sources for today's worship text:*** *The WorshipBook*, *Peacemaking Through Worship* resource, *Book of Common Worship* (2018), *Liturgies for the Journey of Life*, and *Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)*. ***Music*** is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

***Childcare:*** A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. ***Activity bags and baskets*** are available in the foyer for children. Please return them to the foyer at the end of worship.

***Restroom locations:*** To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the first and second floors of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an ***infant changing table*** in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.



We are grateful and excited to be welcoming the ***Rev. Dr. Nora Tubbs Tisdale*** to the pulpit this morning. Rev. Dr. Tisdale is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a Professor Emerita of Homiletics at Yale Divinity School, where she taught preaching from 2006 to 2018. Previously, she taught at Princeton Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary and served on the pastoral staff of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

Rev. Dr. Tisdale is the author of several books on preaching, including *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*, *Prophetic Preaching: A Pastoral Approach*, and *How Women Transform Preaching*. She is a former president of the Academy of Homiletics and has spent her career exploring the craft of preaching and the ways preaching connects faith, scripture, and the life of a congregation.

A longtime friend of First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Tisdale lives here in Durham with her husband Alfred.

## Upcoming Events

Many of our events are posted in the bi-weekly newsletter. You may read past newsletters and join our mailing list at <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/>



**Fall Book Club:** *How the Word Is Passed*: Join FPC's Racial Equity Task Force this fall for a book club tour by Zoom, from Monticello to the African American History Museum in DC, reading Clint Smith's *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, one of the *New York Times*' top ten books of 2021. Six sessions run **every other Thursday, 7–8 p.m., September 10 through November 19**; please have your book ready before the first meeting. To get the Zoom link or sign up to lead a discussion, RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/retf-book-club-2026>

**The Somethings Book Group:** Join us **Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** in Esther's office for a laid-back book discussion group. This fall we're reading through *The Women of Wild Hill* by Kirsten Miller (October), and *Rap and Redemption on Death Row* by Alim Braxton (November), with *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor carrying us into Advent (December). All are welcome to jump in at any point.

**The Somethings Annual Retreat 2026:** It's time for our annual fall retreat! Join the FPC Somethings (our 20s and 30s ministry) **October 16-18** for a weekend of connection, spirituality, and rest at Ocean Isle, NC. We'll be staying at a beautiful house right on the water, and worship will include a newly commissioned communion set, plus more surprises to come. Please reach out to Pastor Esther ([e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org)) for more information.

### **Support Group for People Affected with Mental Health Challenges and Their Loved Ones:**

If you or a family member is living with mental health challenges, you are invited to gather with others with similar experiences to discuss ways to share mutual support. This may mean forming one group that includes both families and people living with a mental illness, or it may mean forming two separate groups. The group is meant to be a place to find community and encouragement. It will not include counseling or therapy. We are hoping to create a space for conversation and a chance to explore spiritual resources for strength and hope. If you are interested in attending an initial meeting, email [communications@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:communications@firstpres-durham.org) for more information.

**Building Update: Rebuilding Together:** Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project begins **in early October**. Funded by the 2022 Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign, the project will improve accessibility, renovate the Fellowship Hall, add an elevator, reconfigure volunteer/Walk-In Ministry offices, add a columbarium and basement showers, plus several other additional renovations. Once construction begins, the Fellowship Hall will close and volunteer offices will move, the kitchen stays open, staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured, and some events may move offsite. Questions? Email [office@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:office@firstpres-durham.org).

## ~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

### We offer our condolences to:

*Steve Martin's brother-in-law, Dan Catania, passed away. The service was on September 28 in Lincolnton, NC.*

### We remember in prayer:

*Bob Lewis is recovering from surgery due to a fall last week.*

*Beth Neece recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.*

*Felicia Sprincenatu recovering from surgery.*

*Our youth away on the beach retreat.*

*Tony Brown*

*Paul Cornsweet*

*Sam Crabtree*

*Susan Cyr*

*Sue Fricks*

*Joe Harvard*

*Kerry Holbrook*

*Lee House*

*Ann Huff*

*Jenni James*

*Harriett Mitchell*

*Fred Moore*

*Franzi Rokoske*

### Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Alfred Tisdale*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

Chatham Ridge Assisted Living: *John Fricks*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

Southpoint Atria: *Madge McKeithen*

### Family and Friends of the Congregation

*Ashley Alvord*, colleague of Sharon Hirsch

*John Carter*, brother of Conrad Carter

*Francisca Cristobal*, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

*Kim Cummings*, father of Drew Cummings

*Sara Degand*, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

*Minnie Sue Douglas*, mother of Mindy Douglas

*Rosalynn Farrell*, mother of Rachel Bethune

*Linda Foster-Momsen*, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

*Cheryl Fowler*, friend of Cheri Reece

*Jennifer Hervey*, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

*Larry Hethcox*, father of Esther Hethcox

*Carl Holladay*, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

*Lydia Still and Emory Grace*, daughter and granddaughter of Kelli Hunnicutt

*Katie Jackson*, wife of Matthew Hirsch

*Donna Johnson*, mother of Ann Huff

*Anthony Ketcham*, brother-in-law of Wil James

*Elizabeth Manceras*, mother of Julio Manceras

*Sandra Mikush*, mother of Katie Fogleman

*Ana Sofia Ochoa*, family member of Becky Martin

*Patrick O'Neill*, father of Brianna Bennett

*Janet Ouzts*, sister of Celia Dickerson

*Rebecca Todd ("Toddie") Peters*, mother of Sophie Peters

*Bill Prochaska*, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

*Joe Quirk*, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

*Annie Reaves*, great-niece of Floalice and Robert Reaves

*Jean Shaffer*, friend of Cheri Reece

*Ann Tidwell*, mother of Brandi Kirkland

*Vivian Turner*, mother of Donald Turner

*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

## This Week at a Glance!

### Sunday, October 4

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost,  
World Communion Sunday*

**9:45 AM** Adult and Children's Faith Formation

**11:00 AM** Worship: Nora Tubbs Tisdale, preaching

**12:00 – 1:00 PM** Youth Beach Retreat Returns

**7:00 PM** Slide Show on the Birds of the Peruvian Rainforest (Daye Meeting Room)

### Monday, October 5

**9:00 – 12:00 PM** Walk-In Ministry

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM** Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)

**12:00 – 1:30 PM** Staff Appreciation Lunch - Personnel Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

**1:30 PM** Worship Planning Meeting (Pastor's Study)

**7:00 PM** Youth Ministry Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

### Thursday, October 8

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** Walk-In Ministry

**7:00 PM** Racial Equity Task Force Book Club (Zoom)

### Tuesday, October 6

**7:00 PM** Somethings Book Group (Associate Pastor's Study)

### Friday, October 9

**6:00 PM** Intro to Mah Jongg (Wilson Parlor)

### Wednesday, October 7

**1:00 PM** Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

**6:00 PM** FPC Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)

**7:00 PM** Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, October 10

### Sunday, October 11

*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost,  
Stewardship Kickoff*

**9:45 AM** Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation

**11:00 AM** Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching

**4:00 – 6:30 PM** Youth Group (Parking Lot)

## CHURCH STAFF

*Janet Askew*, Business Associate  
*Lenore Champion*, Director of Children's Ministry  
*Mindy Douglas*, Pastor/Head of Staff  
*Susan Dunlap*, Parish Associate  
*Omar Guess, Sr.*, Sunday Morning Sexton  
*Joseph Harvard*, Pastor Emeritus



*Esther Hethcox*, Associate Pastor  
*Brandi Kirkland*, Communications Associate  
*Matthew Moore*, Minister of Music  
*Donald Turner*, Facilities Associate  
*John Weicher*, Associate Pastor  
*Betsy Williams*, Church Administrator

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[office@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:office@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.